

EFFICIENT DISCOVERY OF DEVICES IN A BLUETOOTH ENVIRONMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A method and system whereby an initiator device discovers the user-
5 friendly name of another device in a wireless network of devices, such as a
Bluetooth network. Initially, the initiator device broadcasts an inquiry message
that is received by the other device (the responding device). The responding
device provides its address in response to the inquiry. The initiator device then
transmits a page, followed by a name request, to the responding device. The
10 responding device provides its user-friendly name in response to the name
request. The initiator device stores (e.g., caches) the address and the
associated user-friendly name in a memory cache. When the initiator device
subsequently sends an inquiry message that is received by the responding
device, the responding device will provide its address to the initiator device.
15 However, instead of sending a name request, the initiator device can retrieve
the user-friendly name from the memory cache based on the address. Thus, the
number of messages needed for the name discovery process is reduced,
allowing the process to be performed more quickly and conserving the battery
resources of the initiator and responding devices. In addition, potential errors
20 associated with the name requests can be reduced or eliminated.